

A new species of *Philautus* (Anura: Rhacophoridae) from the Eastern Ghats, south-eastern India

Indraneil Das* and S.K. Chanda**

Abstract

A new species of *Philautus* is described from the vicinity of Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh in south-eastern India. The new species is compared with congeners from peninsular India and Sri Lanka. Since the members of the genus are restricted to wet evergreen forests of the region, remnant patches of wet forests within a now largely degraded and arid Eastern Ghats are apparently refugia, supporting species that are tolerant of mesic conditions.

KEY WORDS: taxonomy, amphibians, *Philautus*, new species, Eastern Ghats, India.

Introduction

The genus *Philautus* Gistel, 1848 shows a disjunction in its distribution, with member species ranging from Sri Lanka and south-western peninsular India, and then, after a gap of over a thousand kilometres, reappearing in north-eastern India, from where they range south (to the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago) and east (to southern China and the Philippines; see Frost, 1985; Inger and Dutta, 1986). No species had been reported from peninsular India outside of the Western Ghats, prior to the reports by Sathyamurthi (1967) and Sarkar et al. (1993), who recorded *P. variabilis* from Golconda Hills, Andhra Pradesh State, south-eastern India. While examining the herpetological

* Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA. Present address: Centre for Herpetology, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Post Bag 4, Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu 603 104, India.

** Zoological Survey of India, Fire-Proof Spirit Building, 27 J. L. Nehru Road, Calcutta 700 016, India.